Meet The Finishers
Wounded Warriors Fund at Ocean Reef

Ocean Reef’s Wounded Warrior Fund was started by Al Mast and Leonard Wood in 2007 through the Ocean Reef Foundation. The goal is to make a measurable and tangible difference for those that have been the most severely wounded, one soldier at a time. “There are so many important organizations that provide programs, events and assistance on a national level. We saw a need at the grass roots level, an opportunity to help those that need the most help,” says Mast.

Mast and Wood do their research. They want to ensure the dollars go to a very specific project, one that is committed, one that needs the finishing touches to reach the shared goal.

“Disfigured veteran deals with disrespect at home”
This was the headline in USA Today, April 25, 2013. Upon reading the full story of Marine Corporal Tony Porta, injured by an IED explosion in Iraq leaving him burned over 80% of his body and without his right arm, Al and Leonard agreed that his need was great. And what Porta needed was someone to come in and close the deal. A land purchase, a home and a better life were waiting in the wings and with monies provided to the Semper Fi Fund by Ocean Reef’s Wounded Warrior Fund, Porta and his family will have a new home in a small town where they will be more accepted than in a larger city. Neighbors will have the ability to get to know the person underneath. Porta may never know about the help that came from Ocean Reef, but that’s the way Mast and Wood designed it. Says Leonard, “we don’t want to be out there in front, we just want to help the organizations finish the job, put the icing on the cake in a way.”

Both of the founding Members have personal ties to the military; Mr. Wood’s son was an Army Captain and Mr. Mast’s a Marine Captain, both returned from Iraq without injury for which their families feel blessed. “It is a cause that is close to us and its also about recognizing how fortunate we are and that we should be helping people,” says Leonard. “Many people may not know someone personally who has served but we know what a patriotic community Ocean Reef is and sometimes it’s just a matter of knowing how to go help, he adds.

For that reason, they have set this fund up through the Ocean Reef Foundation. With eight more individuals currently under consideration Mast says, “We will continue to perform our due diligence to ensure we follow the mission we set out to achieve, to help those veterans most severely injure and make a tangible difference in their life.”

If you want to make a connection that will directly impact and improve the life of a veteran, simply send a check marked for the Wounded Warriors Fund to: The Ocean Reef Foundation, 200 Anchor Drive, Suite B Key Largo, FL 33037.

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